

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Pressure-air driven percussion device for a down-the-hole drill ~~(1) with,~~ the pressure-air driven percussion device comprising

a hammer-piston ~~(6) which is~~ axially reciprocally movable in a hammer-piston chamber ~~(18)~~ through a driving device ~~(9)~~, said hammer-piston ~~(6)~~ in operation acting with a hammer-end ~~(16)~~ against an upper end ~~(17)~~ of a drill bit ~~(2) which is~~ positioned inside a chuck ~~(3)~~, wherein

an air cushion for reducing percussive power ~~is arranged to be formed~~ at the hammer-end of the hammer-piston in positions where the drill bit ~~(2)~~ has been moved ~~passed past~~ past a predetermined distance in ~~the~~ a percussion direction, characterised in

~~— that~~

the drill bit ~~(2)~~ is being sealingly slidingly supported in a drill bit bushing ~~(5)~~, and

~~— that~~

the hammer-end (16) of the hammer-piston (6) ~~is formed so that it~~
sealingly ~~cooperates~~ cooperating with the drill bit bushing (5) in said positions in
order to form said air-cushion (19).

said air-cushion being formed in a volume defined by an upper end of
the drill bit, the drill bit bushing and the hammer-end of the hammer-piston.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Percussion device according to claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein an upper end portion (17) of the drill bit (2) is sealingly,
slidingly supported in the drill bit bushing (5).

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Percussion device according to claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drill bit bushing (5) is arranged to be supported by
a housing (4) of the down-the-hole drill (1).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Percussion device according to claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hammer-piston chamber (18) is formed by a housing
of the down-the-hole drill (1).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Percussion device according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the driving device (9) includes a leakage passage (~~12, 13, 14~~) for the pressure-air, through which a flushing position is established, ~~wherein~~ and the pressure-air is allowed to leak ~~passed~~ past the driving device (9) in far advanced positions in the percussion direction of the hammer-piston (6).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Percussion device according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the hammer-piston (6) is provided with a central axial channel (8) which ~~continuous~~ continues in the drill bit (2) over a foot valve (7), which is fastened in the drill bit (2) and seals against the hammer-piston (6).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Percussion device according to claim 7, characterised in that wherein the air-cushion is also limited by ~~the~~ an outside surface of the foot valve (7).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Down-the-hole drill ~~(1)including~~ comprising

a percussion device according to claim 1 with a hammer-piston axially reciprocally movable in a hammer-piston chamber through a driving device, said hammer-piston in operation acting with a hammer-end against an upper end of a drill bit positioned inside a chuck,

an air cushion for reducing percussive power arranged at the hammer-end of the hammer-piston in positions where the drill bit has been moved past a predetermined distance in a percussion direction,

the drill bit being sealingly slidingly supported in a drill bit bushing, and the hammer-end of the hammer-piston sealingly cooperating with the drill bit bushing in said positions to form said air-cushion,

said air-cushion being arranged to be formed in a volume defined by an upper end of the drill bit, the drill bit bushing and the hammer-end of the hammer-piston.